

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/NZ2004/000141

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

Int. Cl. 7: H01M 10/48, H02J 7/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC: H01M 10/48; H02J 7/00; G01N 27/416 to the extent indicated below

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

DWPI: IPC H01M 10/48; H02J7/00: USPTO G01N 27/416 with key words VRLA, polari+, float, tafel, trickle, lead, valve, regulat+

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category* | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages                                     | Relevant to claim No. |
|-----------|--|-----------------------|
| P, X      | US 2003/0210056 A1 (Arai et al.), 13 November 2003<br>Paragraphs 10, 14, 16, 21- 55, 78- 170; Claims 5- 15; Figs 1- 13 | 1- 9                  |
| A         | US 6532425 B1 (Boost et al.), 11 March 2003<br>Whole Document  | 1- 18                 |
| A         | US 2002/0060555 A1 (Finger), 23 May 2002<br>Whole Document   | 1- 18                 |
| A         | US 5250904 (Salander et al.), 5 October 1993<br>Whole Document   | 1- 18                 |

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C

☒ See patent family annex

|   |  |
|---|--|
| * Special categories of cited documents:  |  |
| "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance  | "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention  |
| "E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date   | "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone   |
| "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) | "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art |
| "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means  | "&" document member of the same patent family  |
| "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed  |  |

Date of the actual completion of the international search  
13 October 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report  
25 OCT 2004

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| C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT |  |                       |
|---|--|-----------------------|
| Category*   | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages                           | Relevant to claim No. |
| A   | Derwent Abstract Accession No. 2001-123577/14 Class S01, CN 1145536 A (Tian J),<br>19 March 1997<br>Abstract | 1- 18                 |

**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

Information on patent family members

International application No.

**PCT/NZ2004/000141**

This Annex lists the known "A" publication level patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

| Patent Document Cited in Search Report  |            |     |          | Patent Family Member |            |
|---|------------|-----|----------|----------------------|------------|
| US  | 2003210056 | DE  | 10321483 | JP                   | 2004045375 |
| US  | 6532425    | NIL |          |                      |            |
| US  | 2002060555 | US  | 6362601  | US                   | 6456043    |
| US  | 5250904    | NIL |          |                      |            |
| CN  | 1145536    | NIL |          |                      |            |
| Due to data integration issues this family listing may not include 10 digit Australian applications filed since May 2001. |            |     |          |                      |            |
| END OF ANNEX  |            |     |          |                      |            |